

inside SOCCER

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STILL ONLY

\$2



Knight time robbery

SUNDAY IS Australian soccer's version of the Gun Fight at the OK Corral. The venue is Olympic Park in Melbourne and the two teams are Marconi Fairfield and Melbourne Knights.

But this isn't any old soccer game, it's the big one, the Grand Final - and this year it carries extra significance.

"We're really hurt," confessed a Marconi insider. "We've been criticised, we've been ridiculed, and we've been written off - and all we did was to win the League Premiership. On Sunday we have a point to prove - especially against Melbourne Knights who we reckon we owe for that 2-2 in Sydney."

Leading the team of Sydney gun slingers will be ace keeper Bobby Catlin who has turned criticism into the kind of spur he needed to be in devastating form against Adelaide City in the Preliminary final.

"Call us the Catlin Gang if you like but come Sunday Melbourne Knights will know they've been in a game."

Now that's fighting talk which is sure to rile up 'Sheriff' Ian Dobson and his brilliant young Melbourne Knights side.

The OK Corral, a.k.a. Olympic Park, sure looks the place to be.

Bruce Campbell

Catlin Gang gunning for revenge



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It's soccer's biggest ever readers' competition - thousands of dollars in prizes

INSIDE SOCCER is set to launch the biggest ever reader competition in the history of Australian soccer.

"Soccer Bingo is coming to Australia," says ISO Managing Director Cec Bucello, "and I am delighted that it is our paper which is piloting this exciting project."

"Sales for our last three issues have just gone through the roof and our early figures have surpassed all of our wildest expectations."

"Now we can start giving the readers something else."

Soccer Bingo will start next week in *Inside Soccer* - but be warned, you have to get the paper to play.

Every issue of *Inside Soccer* will carry the competition rules, a voucher and a Soccer Bingo card.

Then, over the following FOUR issues readers will be able to mark off their numbers against the printed bingo numbers.

Winners will be eligible for prizes valued at THOUSANDS of dollars.

"This is BIG," added Cec Bucello.

"We have had tremendous response from the various companies who want to be part of this and the prize list is superb."

"Soccer Bingo will become a permanent feature in *Inside Soccer* with prizes drawn every four issues."

"That way we can ensure that as many readers as possible will get the chance to share in the prize draw."

Already *Inside Soccer* has blazed a clear path through the tame world of soccer journalism in Australia and, with the confidence of being the nation's number one soccer publication, is set to introduce many other innovations.

"The addition of *Soccer World* is just one of a deliberate series of moves to bring our massive readership what it deserves," said Bucello.

"Our new European and International paper will be available as a free extra to readers of *Inside Soccer* over the next five issues - and then we will announce a special package designed to give them even more extra value."

SOCCER BINGO - it's BIG and it's ONLY in *Inside Soccer*

**inside
soccer**

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EDITORIAL ENQUIRIES should be directed to;
Bruce Campbell
PO Box 869
Queanbeyan NSW 2620
TEL: (06) 299 2232 FAX: (06) 299 2332

BUSINESS ENQUIRIES should be directed to;
Cec Bucello
21 Einstein Street,
Winston Hills NSW 2154
TEL: (02) 686 7020 FAX: (02) 639 2169

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IT'S A FACT - Inside Soccer, Australia's
NUMBER ONE

Arnie says no to United



CURRENT Soccerroo striker Graham Arnold has turned his back on a chance to join ambitious Sydney United - instead opting for yet another season playing in Europe.

"Arnie has had a great year in Holland," said a close friend of the player.

"He has been offered an extension to his contract and when he asked for my advice I told to him to take it."

"When you are retired you are out of the game forever so you have to take

every chance that comes your way."

At the beginning of this season Arnold made a surprise move to Dutch club NAC Breda from Belgium as a replacement for Pierre van Hooijdonk who was snapped up by Glasgow Celtic.

But Arnie has made the fans forget all about their former hero as his goals have hauled him into third place in the final goalscorers charts in Holland - and his tally also represents nearly a third of the total goals scored by

his team.

This season NAC Breda finished in a respectable eighth place but have their sights set on something a bit higher than mid-table next season.

And they will be hoping that the Aussie's golden boot will steer them towards that coveted UEFA Cup place.

But Sydney United had also been hoping that the Euro star would be part of their plan for next season.

"There is plenty of time for Graham to come home," said his

European based buddy. His wife is home sick and there isn't much doubt that he will be home soon, maybe even the next again season.

"But how can you turn your back on the money to be made in Europe?"

NAC Breda didn't have any players listed in the Dutch squad to contest the European Championships and clearly the club management see Graham Arnold as an ace in the pack - and one they would prefer to keep.



Graham Arnold: the superstar is staying for another season in Holland

Here comes the TIN MAN

BOTH CANBERRA Cosmos and new guys Perth Glory are set to square up to each other in the transfer stakes - with the target being former Glasgow Rangers star, Ted McMinn.

The former Rangers, Derby and Seville midfielder is wintering in Perth after seeking a new start in Australia and has come highly recommended to Canberra boss Mike Lyons.

"Ted is still a good player," says Lyons, "and he is the sort of footballer who could do very well in Australia."

"I'd like to have him at Cosmos - but I think that Glory are interested in him also."

It wasn't long ago that the thirty-three year old McMinn was a regular in the Derby side after playing with Seville in the Spanish League.

He was a big favourite at the Baseball Ground although he never enjoyed the near legendary status that he did at Ibrox where he was a part of the Ally McCoist show.

It was at Rangers that he earned his nickname, 'The Tin Man', after the



MIKE LYONS: sights set on Ted McMinn

Wizard of Oz character - and now the star is looking to become the new Wizard of Oz in a career change which can only boost the local game.

Both Canberra and Perth are shaping up in the battle for his signature but it would come as a major surprise if some of the top clubs don't join the race very soon.

Bruce Campbell

PAGE 3 IS ALWAYS *Hot* in *Inside Soccer*

A BIG HIT WITH THE FANS

OK, we're known as a paper which gives the fans what they want, so here you are - the marvellous Rowena Leigh. Now *get back* to writing letters concerning soccer

Rowena is obviously the athletic type and you might suspect that coming from Canberra she is actually a big Cosmos fan. Well, the truth is that we just don't know - but she certainly looks athletic to me (you should see the other pictures in the 'set' !!!).

PIX: by Andrew Dawson



Race to arms

AUSTRALIAN Institute of Sport graduate John Aloisi has only one way of staying in Italy with his on-loan club Cremonese, and that is to become eligible for Italian Army conscription.

"Despite having an Italian passport John is regarded as a foreigner," says a family friend.

"The only way he can stay permanently in Italy is to become an Italian citizen - and that means that he is then liable for national service in the Italian Army."

Aloisi, whose elder brother Ross plays with West Adelaide, has consistently turned down offers to play with Australia's Olympic team in an effort to get Italian citizenship.

He moved to *Serie A* side Cremonese last November on loan from Royal Antwerp - and then scored on his debut.

That was in the 7-1 rout of fellow strugglers Bari.

But Cremonese finished the season second bottom of *Serie A* and will be relegated to the Italian second division.

For Aloisi the moment to treasure will always be the 45th minute of his debut game against Bari - just two minutes after coming on as a substitute.

He now stands in the record books as one of only two Aussies to ever score in the Italian first division - Christian Vieri is the other.

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Serie A club for Perth



ITALIAN Serie A side Sampdoria are set to play a one off game in Perth against Perth Glory on May 31 at the WACA as part of the State's soccer centenary celebrations.

The tour is being organised by Sports Works, a western based sports promotion tour and the game is the result of extended negotiations with Sampdoria.

"Sampdoria is one of Italy's glamour sides and is truly a top team on the world stage," said Sports Group spokesman Howard Franz.

"This will also be Sampdoria's very first visit to Australia."

For Glory it will be an important hit-out and will give coach Gary Marocchi a better indication of his new side with the entry of Perth into the Ericsson Cup now just three months away.

Walter Zenga, Roberto Mancini (pictured above), Clarence Seedorf, Sinisa Mihajlovic and Christian Karembeu will be major drawcards in the Sampdoria side which finished in eighth place in the Italian first division this season.

"We have also have the very talented Enrico Chiesa," said an official of Sampdoria when *Inside Soccer* contacted them as we went to press.

"This season Enrico finished as third top goalscorer in Serie A on 20 goals.

"He made his debut for us over three seasons ago but has been loaned out to Modena and then Cremonese before we recalled him to the club."

Chiesa is a talented play-anywhere forward who has played on both wings as well as in a central striking role, the position which he probably favours the most, and one which he has filled so well for Sampdoria this season.

In recent years Samp have also featured stars such as Ruud Gullit and England's David Platt.

Strike three

THE high flying Brisbane Strikers were involved in more media controversy than they would normally want to be last week - but quickly stepped in to calm things down before they were slapped with a disrepute charge from SocOz.

First, Frank Farina fired the Strikers into that late first half lead against Sydney United and for a moment it looked as if they were in with a chance of a Grand Final spot.

But then it started to go horribly wrong for the league's most northerly club.

Just minutes after scoring, Farina earned the wrath of referee Brett Hugo and picked up his second yellow card of the match - and was on his way to an early shower while the Strikers chances of reaching the big one were blown.

Down to ten men and trailing 2-1 on aggregate, and without the influential Farina, the reality of the situation was that

Farina send-off starts media press release war ... *Inside Soccer's* roving sleuth, Matt Green, reports.



Frank Farina: his sending off against Sydney United caused a flurry of fax paper emanating from the Queensland capital

the Strikers were now out of finals' contention.

And just to rub salt in the wound Sydney United responded

with two goals to put them through easily 4-1 on aggregate.

Farina was booked for an altercation with United's Ante Milicic

and with Milicic still rolling on the ground Hugo flashed the red signal to an amazed Farina.

On his way to the

dressing room Farina clearly had something to say to the still prone Milicic.

But what followed was one of the most amazing 48 hour spells seen in the Australian media for some years.

The third major strike, and the one that nearly landed the Strikers in hot water, was a press release from media officer Jason Kluver.

Headlined "Referee robs gutsy Strikers of finals glory" (sic) the release launched a stinging attack on Brett Hugo.

"In what could only be described as one of the most pitiful refereeing displays seen in the Ericsson Cup this season the Brisbane Strikers have bowed out of the 1995/96 Cup going down 2-1 to Sydney United," it stated.

"Sydney referee Brett Hugo single handedly went about pushing the destruct button for Brisbane with a series of pathetic decisions which culminated in the ridiculous but tragic sending off of star striker Frank Farina.

"The decision was so unpopular with the normally well behaved Suncorp Stadium crowd that Hugo required an unprecedented police escort from the ground at half time.

"The Strikers totally dominated a United side content to sit back in numbers and defend the 2-0 lead

The Strikers in action against South Melbourne - this season has seen them gain unprecedented success.

PHOTO: Visual Illusions





"Referee robs gutsy Strikers of finals glory ... Sydney referee Brett Hugo went about pushing the destruct button for Brisbane with a series of pathetic decisions"

they enjoyed coming into the game."

Farina will cop an automatic one match ban from the sending off which will be effective at the start of next season.

This season his play has been a revelation for Brisbane and, together with midfield ace Jason Polak, has turned Brisbane into a genuine championship contender.

The press release also said that the sending off decision "sent the Suncorp crowd into hysterics and could only be described as farcical."

And finally, the Strikers press release gave the credit for Sydney United's second goal to "Queenslander" Manis Lamond - despite the fact that Magic Manis was born in Papua New Guinea and spent school time in Canberra where he was on a soccer scholarship from Canberra City.

But within forty eight hours of the damaging press release the Strikers hit back with two well aimed messages.

The first was a public apology from superstar, Frankie Farina.

"Although I play the game hard, and give no quarter, I would like to apologise for my behaviour," he said.

"It was improper behaviour for a sportsman and was totally out of character for me to let my team mates down."

"Strikers supporters, both juniors and adults, deserve better than this and I truly and sincerely apologise."

"The support that Brisbane followers have given myself and the team has been nothing short of fantastic and I personally thank everyone for it."

"Followers of the Strikers can rest assured that next year will be bigger and, most importantly, better."

A heartfelt message from the former Socceroo great was sure to restore at least equilibrium in the paper chase but shortly after that followed the third, and final, strike from the controversy racked Strikers - a statement from club chairman, Ian Brusaco.

Brusaco's was clearly aimed at diffusing a potentially volatile situation, and judging by the low key response of the media to Farina's sending off, and the first slamming press release, clearly worked.

"The material (in the first press release which criticised the referee) was prepared and sent without prior referral to the Strikers management or staff," said Brusaco.

"The combined efforts of the management, staff and players of the Strikers has confirmed the club as an integral part of the strong sporting culture in Queensland."

"We have now taken our place beside the established sporting teams representing Queensland at a national level."

And that was that - so far.

What a week in the Sunshine State.

AWARITEFE LASHES OUT AT RACISM

MARCONI striker Francis Awaritefe was the subject of racial abuse for at least the second time this season when his club played an elimination game against Melbourne Knights at Bossley park two weeks ago.

Almost from the kick off the Nigerian born Englishman, who is also a former Melbourne Knights player, was jeered at from a small section of the crowd.

"It was a disgrace," said an irate female fan who phoned the *Inside Soccer* Canberra editorial office after the match.

"Some of the things that they were calling him were totally unprintable."

"But these weren't Melbourne Knights fans, they were Sydney people who would normally watch Sydney United."

Earlier in the season Awaritefe was targeted by a small section of abusive fans in a match at Bossley Park against Sydney United. That match was also the centre of major crowd unrest when United goalkeeper John Perosh received a facial injury.

Many in the crowd thought that Awaritefe's boot had connected with Perosh's face but SBS TV clearly showed that it was actually an accidental connection with United defender Velimir Kupresak.

After the game both clubs were placed on \$5,000 good behaviour bonds, the highest ever in the history of the game, and three players and the Sydney United coach were also censured.

It was alleged that Awaritefe was the subject of racial taunts in the players' tunnel after that earlier game also although those charges were never proven.

Now the renewed



racial slur has clearly angered Awaritefe who was seen

arguing heatedly with supporters after the Melbourne Knights

match.

Soccer Australia is expected to mount an

official enquiry into the matter.

Bruce Campbell



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A DROP OF SCOTCH

with
Bruce Campbell



IT'S THAT time again, time when we get into a big hype about the Grand Final, Australian domestic soccer's biggest year.

And I'm sure that all of the hype is well deserved; good luck to both clubs.

But this year we also have another bit of hype to contend with; one that maybe isn't quite so deserved, the battle for the USA Olympics.

The general Australian sporting public is about to go into a wave of patriotic fervour as our athletes, and soccer players, prepare to bring back as many golden trinkets as possible from USA '96.

It doesn't seem that long ago that we were talking about USA '94, the *real* sporting tournament to top all sporting tournaments.

However, our great land seems to be one of the few places on God's earth where the Olympics supersede the World Cup as a sporting event.

That is sad.

It is sad because the World Cup is a *great* event and it is also sad because the Olympics, or at least what nows masquerades as the Olympics, is so far removed from the bastion of sporting comradeship that first propelled it as to be now bordering on the obscene.

Take the football tournament for example, OK let's call it soccer.

The European countries play off in an Under 21 qualifying tournament to end up in an Under 23 competition - and then they are allowed to bring three over-age players.

And little Scotland actually qualified by reaching the last four of the European event - but, of course, they can't compete because *Britain* doesn't send a team to the Olympics.

The IOC think that by having three over-age players that they are going to attract the cream of world footballers.

They also really want to have full national teams play, but FIFA, quite correctly, have balked at that.

It seems that the pseudo Under 21 / Under 23 concept, with the addition of three over-agers, is the best compromise.

WRONG, WRONG, WRONG.

It is a shambles, it is a mess and because of that it just isn't taken seriously anywhere in the world.

Australia, sadly, is an exception.

Here our sporting public thinks that coming fourth in some sham knock-up competition is like achieving icon status.

OK, so why should we tell them different.

Australia will quite rightly be counted as one of the major chances of taking a trick at USA '96.

I also believe that our new Olyroos is even *better* than the one which we sent to Barcelona.

So, even if it is not the great sporting event that our other sporting colleagues think it is we are still in with a good chance of going one step better than our previous best ever of fourth in 1992.

Should we do that then our stakes as a sport in Australia will rocket.

Stick that together with our soon to be trod paths to the Intercontinental Championship and the 1998 World Cup and we are in for a bonanza of back slapping and band wagon jumping.

Hopefully by the time the next Olympics come around we are sufficiently high up the international scale to treat the Games with the second rate status that it so richly deserves.

But then that next event will be Sydney 2000 and, on second, thought we might just hold off telling the rest what a dreadful event it really is. After all we could actually *win* that one - and wouldn't that be some party!

Far be it from me to be a party pooper

WOW, WHAT A BEAUTY

I'VE JUST MOVED to Australia and have been bitterly disappointed at the local game.

The worse feature is the press, it is really poor and, at the risk of sounding like a whingeing Pom, doesn't compare to that back home.

The British game even gets far better coverage than the local national league - and I can't understand that.

I'm not complaining because I quickly got hooked up to Optus and Galaxy so I could get my weekly doses of nostalgia.

I've been watching the last few rounds of the NSL and think that the standard of play is actually pretty good.

Already I've got my favourites; Matt Bingley, Frances Awaritefe, Ante Milicic and Norman Tome are all my kind of player.

Obviously I like direct running ball players.

At one of the Top Six games I was given a free sample of *Inside Soccer* and what a shock!

This is great, a paper which has the guts to print the transfer stories and gossip.

And what about your Page 3 - I'd sign the forms straight away if I could get into that Aussie outfit with Rowena Leigh.

Yours is surely the only adult paper in Australian soccer - any chance of a repeat of the lovely Rowena?

John Wright
Bondi Junction

(No bother at all, John. Stay tuned for more Page 3 lovelies in the future. I like your choice of player, stick with Aussie soccer - it's a good product although I'd have to agree with you that the packaging isn't all that great - JW).

And for all the others who wrote in on our Page 3 innovation ...

"Rowena, what a dreamboat - can I play in her team ... " (W Lennox, Manly).

"I'm surprised that you decided to run a Page 3 girl - but delighted ..." (R Gaspari, Mooroolbark).

"Already I'm an ISO junkie - you're paper and radio shows are fab - but your Page 3 is just sheer dead brilliant ..." (Exiled Scot, Balgownie).

"How about a repeat of Amy from Canberra - lousy team but GREAT looking girl ..." (W Chapman, Ainslie).

"Forget the players, just give us pages of Amy and Rowena, at last a man's soccer paper" (G Klausberger, North Ryde).

(OK, it looks like the Page 3 is here to stay. We've just signed up a whole bevy of beauties but are quite happy to keep our readers satisfied and repeat Rowena and Amy. - John White).

STICK IT UP YOURS

I READ YOUR very first issue (of this series) where you printed the story about Gordon Dunster not being able to referee because he wanted to retain his position as a FIFA linesman.

I have reserved my opinion until this week but after coming back from the Marconi v Melbourne Knights Top Six game my jury has come in.

Dunster is a lousy linesman and I would be quite happy if he moved to refereeing - as long as it was in

Afghanistan.

He must be one of the worst officials in Australia.

I am a 'Gippsland' exile living in Sydney and remember him sending off John Markovski at Olympic a couple of seasons ago when Jonesy was playing for the Falcons.

In fact, I have never seen any other official so consistently involved in controversy as Dunster.

It wouldn't be bad if he did give the game away.

I know where I'd like to stick HIS game.

'Falcon-ite'

(Name and address withheld at request).

COSMOS FAN

I AM CURIOUS to know the playing future of the talented Michael Garcia?

Also, what of Arsenije Popovich - I am sure I haven't seen him in the Canberra Cosmos playing squad for weeks?

I think Wadey and the Cosmos are the best thing that has happened to Canberra.

Although the crowds are down I feel that next season will see a reverse.

With confidence in the Cosmos as a playing team and a permanent fixture in the broader scene will help.

I DO think that there has to be more 'street level' promotion of the Cosmos as a team and some of their players.

I enjoy all the soccer on Triple SSS, especially Tuesday and Friday mornings, and compliments for the new paper, *Inside Soccer* it's tops.

Soccer Rules - Go, Go Cosmos

Thomas Miller
Canberra

(Good on you, Thomas. I've passed on your comments to the Cosmos marketing staff - and they agree. I think you'll see a lot of work done in the capital during the off season. Michael Garcia is currently

BEST LETTER AWARD

fancy your chances at battling the sharp pen of John White, the demon scribe?



Every issue John will give his award to his BEST LETTER - but beware, he's got a vicious reputation.

MAIL ORDER MALL are sponsors of the award - and will send an appropriate soccer goodie to the 'lucky' recipient.

BEST LETTER - THOMMO, PLEASE STAY

I WAS SHOCKED when I read in *Inside Soccer* that Eddie Thomson was being courted by Glasgow Rangers.

We can't compete with that, they are a great club and would surely pay him a lot more than the joke salary he gets from Soccer Australia.

To cap it all off he gets almost non-stop criticism in the press here. You seem to be the only paper who doesn't bag him, although I suppose that is just a matter of time.

Eddie is the best we have ever had, and we should do EVERYTHING we can to keep him.

V Melton, Salisbury, SA

(Au contraire, Vic - we agree with you. I know that Eddie was also courted by Hearts a few years ago and I do believe that it is only a matter of time before he does go. In the meantime I think Thommo is the best - and you can pick up the Best Letter Award. - John White.

negotiating with Canberra for next season. He suffered a very bad back injury but is nearly back to full fitness. Arsenije would be hopeful of being one of the local group of players added to the roster for next season - he certainly played well enough - JW).

RESENTMENT

IN REGARD to Bruce Campbell's article entitled 'The Man Who Would Be King?' (*Inside Soccer* Vol 4 Number 5) I resent the inference that I have taken sides in the ACT Soccer Federation's leadership issue, in a biased manner, and that I have been influenced by certain executive members.

Apart from the quotes being inaccurate, I was not told I was speaking on the record.

The author, Mr Campbell, telephoned me to discuss the situation, but did not indicate he was quoting me?

It was my understanding that the story was about the leadership rivalry between Ron Watkins and Steve Doszpot, not a journalist reporting on the events which have taken place recently.

The quotes attributed to me regarding Mr Watkins and Mr Peter Windsor do not express my professional views.

And for the record, I resigned from the Canberra City soccer board before your last publication (April 22-May 7).

Matt Taylor
Canberra

(Golly gosh, and gee, Matty - we're really sorry that your feelings are hurt Why would anyone with more than

the scantest experience that you possess want to talk to you about ANYTHING to do with soccer? After all, aren't you the same journalist who doesn't know how to spell Alan BALL (not Bull), Joe ROYLE (not Royal), and who also thinks that Gary PALLISTER is a Scotsman?

I don't like to bag other jourmos but I'll make an exception in your case. Your writing, in MY opinion, is pompous, boring and stinks of someone who has a very shallow knowledge of the game - as one would expect from a Cadet journalist on a paper which places soccer so far down its list of editorial priorities.

My advice to you - on the record that is - grow up, shut up, and stop being a whiner when someone says something that you don't like. - John White)

AND FOR THE RECORD, because it is this sort of pratt which takes legal action against newspapers, John White is a pseudonym. - Editor)

JOHN WHITE'S Life's A Ball

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WATCHING Ryan Giggs in the FA Cup final brought back glimpses of a bygone era, an era when the wing wizards like Stanley Matthews ruled the world of soccer.

Certainly Giggs doesn't quite play the same role as the 'Wizard of the Dribble' but he does have a touch of that mercurial talent.

Unfortunately the FA Cup final wasn't one of those games which will go down in history, despite my almost timely article previously in *Inside Soccer* about wingers, or rather the lack of them.

In the 'good old days' team formations were based around a five man forward line, three man centre line and two fullback defence.

With the inspiration of Don Revie the two inside forwards used to drop back and were almost 'fetch and carry' men.

The centre half also dropped back into the centre of the defence when needed although at other times was used to distribute the ball with uncanny skill.

Oh, the good old days, will we ever see their like again?

But Manchester United gave a glimpse that the style is coming back into the game.

At first sight their formation looks ultra defensive but it isn't really.

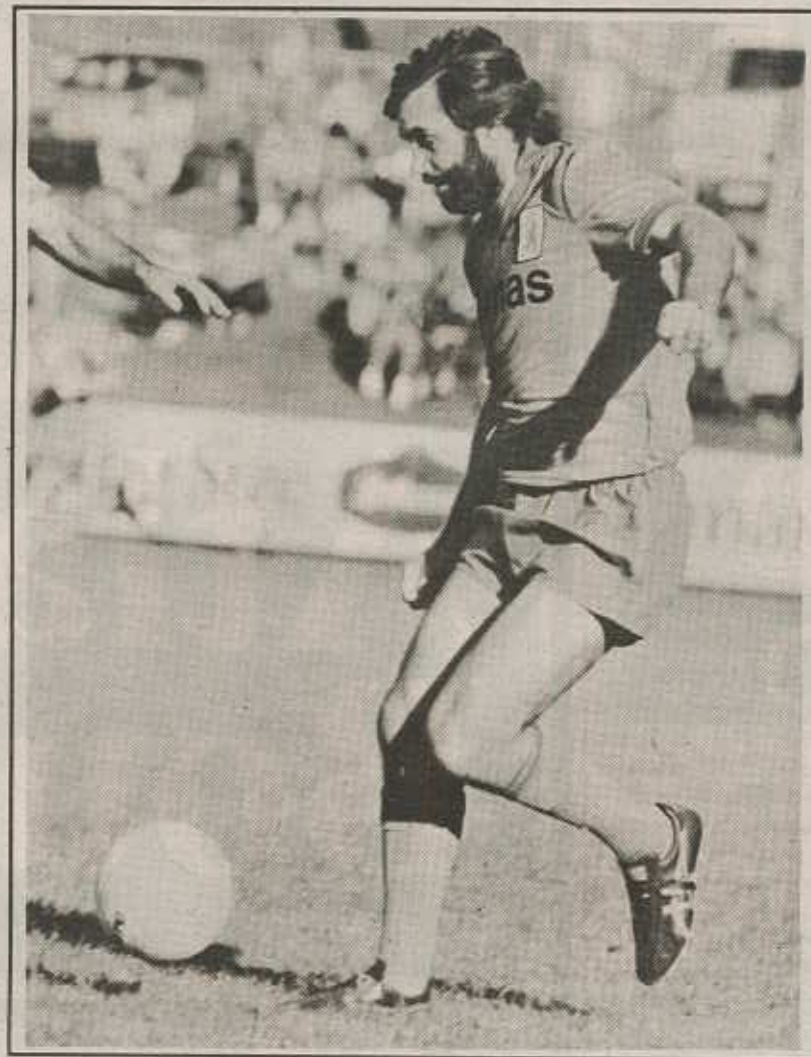
The five man back line includes two 'wing backs', a kind of modern invention which is a combination of an attacking fullback and an old fashioned wing half.

That means that, on the attack at least, the two wing backs can either add to the midfield or even the forward line.

And the liberal use of Giggs as a free forward is surely an indication by Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson that there is still a place for the supremely gifted in the modern game.

I still miss the old fashioned centre forward, the kind of player who could stick the ball in the back of the net - goalkeeper and all.

Nowadays, the rules have been changed to the point



ICON OF A BYGONE AGE: the legendary George Best

where if a striker dares to even look at a goalie the wrong way he is booked.

Obviously, there is no point in bleating about the loss of the manly art of shoulder charging, I know

when I'm beaten.

But maybe the recognition that the fans still recognise the greatest of all greats, the dribbler, is in the recent English vote for the best player in the modern

era.

Former United icon George Best was a deserved recipient of that accolade.

Now if only a few Australian coaches could copy Alex Ferguson's style ...

In SHORT

CORINNE BLATTER, the daughter of FIFA General Secretary Sepp Blatter, has succeeded Kim-Marie Fields at Soccer Australia.

Ms Blatter was previously in Australia as part of the back room team for the World Youth Championships in 1993.

It is no secret that Sepp also has a hankering for an Aussie lifestyle, he was here for the original Australian World Youth Cup in 1991, and with his position at Zurich up for review in 1998 who knows.

SYDNEY COSMOS have announced the signing of Latvian international **VADIM MIKOUTSKY**.

A midfielder with a knack for scoring goals, the Latvian got off to a flying start in Sydney scoring six goals in three games.

After a slow start Cosmos have shot to the top of NSW First Division 1 and boast a team which includes stars of the calibre of Tommy McCulloch, Darren Locca (pictured below), Grant Lee, Paul Dee, Peter Gunning and Tony Spyridakos.

The ambitious club also hopes to take Sydney Olympic bound Jimmy Patikas for a short spell also.



INTER MILAN is NOT coming to Australia - and that's final.

"In the end it was going to cost just too much," said a Marconi insider last week.

"We didn't have any choice although we had looked at Marconi playing against Inter in three games in Sydney, Adelaide and Melbourne.

"But even with partial sponsorship from Pirelli it just wasn't economically feasible."

The tour is believed to have been offered to Soccer Australia which has apparently declined to take up the offer.

Sampdoria will not be seen in the Eastern states either - their asking fee is believed to be just under the million dollar mark.

SYDNEY UNITED have appointed a new General Manager - the third in just two seasons.

He is **Dominic Jrenot** who brings to the ambitious west Sydney club a fair of experience gained working at Soccer Australia.

Already this season Sydney United has unveiled an impressive new million dollar grandstand and is now on the verge of a business amalgamation with the King Tomislav social club which would give it a further income base should the merger come off.

BOBBY McLACHLAN, the former Morwell Falcons and Brunei coach, is expected to be named as Canberra Cosmos General manager within the next few weeks.

McLachlan has been seen in the capital in past weeks and it is no secret that he has a top relationship with coach Mike Lyons - the man who he recommended to the Cosmos

MORWELL FALCONS are now the Gippsland Falcons and are expected to have their change of name confirmed by Soccer Australia shortly.

COMING SOON

IN SOCCER'S TOP PAPER

SOCCER BINGO

in the *NEXT ISSUE* of

inside SOCCER

ON SALE
TUESDAY

4th
JUNE

- * ITS HERE - SOCCER BINGO \$\$\$\$\$\$
- * RACISM IN AUSSIE SOCCER
- * A LOOK AT WHO WON & WHO LOST
- * WORLD SOCCER'S EURO SPECIAL

AUSTRALIA'S TOP SELLING SOCCER PUBLICATION

One on One

STEVE HORVAT

with Mike Komadina



THE FACT FILE

NAME: Steve Horvat
 CLUB: Hadrak Split (Croatia)
 PREVIOUS CLUB(s): Melbourne Knights, North Geelong
 DATE & PLACE OF BIRTH: 14 March 1971, Geelong, Victoria.
 FIRST CLASS DEBUT: 1989
 SOCCEROO DEBUT: 1994 v South Africa
 OTHER INTERNATIONAL HONOURS: Youth Team

THE SPORT FILE

WHO GAVE ME MY BIG BREAK IN SOCCER: Ron Smith at the Australian Institute of Sport
 WHO HELPED ME MOST IN MY EARLY DEVELOPMENT: Ron Smith and my father
 WHAT I REMEMBER FROM MY NSL DEBUT: Not much!
 MY BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT IN FOOTBALL: Losing the Grand Final against Adelaide City
 MY WORST FOOTBALL INJURY: a broken bone in my foot
 FAVOURITE OTHER SPORTS: tennis
 WHICH PLAYER I ADMIRER MOST AT MELBOURNE KNIGHTS: Ollie Pondeljak
 WHICH PLAYER I ADMIRER MOST IN THE NSL: Zeljko Kalac
 WHAT ARE YOUR SOCCEROO AMBITIONS: to play for Australia in the World Cup finals

PERSONALITY FILE

MY KIND OF MUSIC: Pearl Jam
 WHAT I THINK OF AUSTRALIAN SOAPIES: I don't watch them!
 MY FAVOURITE TV SHOW: Seinfeld
 THE PERSON I'D LIKE TO MEET MOST: Kramer
 MY MISCELLANEOUS DISLIKES: injuries
 MY FAVOURITE FOOD: any pasta dish
 MY FAVOURITE PART OF AUSTRALIA: the Gold Coast
 MY FUTURE AMBITIONS: to play in the World Cup
 WHAT I WOULD BE DOING NOW IF I WASN'T AN AUSSIE SOCCER STAR: just being young!

Tahiti Date

The Socceroos next big international date could be an Intercontinental Cup eliminator against Tahiti, the winners of the Melanesia/Polynesia section of Oceania.

Australia, as winners of the qualifier with New Zealand, go into the series as raging hot favourites – even although the date and venues have yet to be fixed.



MAKING THE DECISIONS ON THE WAY TO USA 96: Eddie Thomson and Les Scheinflug

Atlanta Bound

Bruce Campbell takes a look at the current Olyroos

THE SERIOUS preparations for the Atlanta Olympics started way back in January 1994 when the Olyroos played challenge games against Jubilo Iwata and Urawa Red Diamonds in Canberra.

That was part of a five match build up to an Asian and Overseas tour and, during that hectic year, the emerging young team played fifteen games – losing only to Leeds United and Aris Salonika.

That included a 1-1 draw with the USA Olympic team in Papendahl as well as a win over Glasgow Rangers at Ibrox Park.

There is no doubt that the coaching duo of Eddie Thomson and Les Scheinflug then had the opportunity to monitor the players who were to form the backbone of the present squad.

The team selections were methodical, obviously designed to test out all of the players under situations of stress.

Other games in between against the

Japan Olympic team and then that Olympic nations tournament in 1995 led Australia into the January Oceania Olympic Games qualifying series.

This was the best prepared team in Australian soccer history.

The effortless way that Australia disposed of its opponents in

Zealand when the series was in the bag, led to ridicule of the standard of the other Oceania countries – but time may well prove that this is Australia's best ever under age team – irrespective of any perceived short comings in our local opposition.

In Australia's final squad are five overseas based

Craig Moore (Glasgow Rangers) and Vince Matassa (Wycombe) are missing for 'varying reasons and the depth of strength for Thomson and Scheinflug to choose from is obviously exceptional.

For most Australians this will be the first time that the brilliant Hayden Foxe is put under the

THE ROAD TO ATLANTA

THE FINAL QUALIFIERS v Canada

AWAY leg: 26 May (Edmonton)

HOME leg: 2 June (Sydney Football Stadium, kick off 7.30pm)

and Australia's Group games if we qualify;

Saturday 20 July

v FRANCE (Miami)

Monday 22 July

v SAUDI ARABIA (Miami)

Wednesday 24 July

v SPAIN (Orlando)

Adelaide, even allowing for that blemish of fielding a non-registered player and then going down to New

players – an unheard of luxury.

Consider also that Ufuk Talay (Galatasaray), John Aloisi (Cremonese),

microscope although, as a product of the AIS & junior international 'factory', he is well known to Thomson.

Foxe has unbelievable skills for a player of his age and may yet prove to be the star of Australia's Olympic challenge.

In the way, of course, is Canada.

But even there Thomson prepared well by taking his young Aussies to the USA for a pre-match warm up.

That has introduced the Olyroos to conditions similar to what will be experienced in Canada and also the climate.

He gambled on the Canadians placing second in the CONCACAF tournament – and he won.

History shows that he has also bet against Canada before – when he said publicly that he would put his house on Australia knocking the Canadians out of the last World Cup.

Thomson is no fool, he is no supreme optimist.

And he KNOWS just what he does have at his disposal.

In Mark Viduka he has a striker who has been a star amongst adults since he was sixteen.

A hard season as a first team regular for

Croatia Zagreb will not have done him any harm at all.

Neither will 'Chi Chi' Mendez's decision to play for Austrian club Admira Wacker.

And in Mendez, Thomson has a ball player of the highest

calibre available.

Ditto Danny Tiatto, the volatile yet brilliant Melbourne Knight.

In goals Tiatto's Melbourne team-mate Frank Juric has finally shaken off that share-a-game tag with Clint Bolton, dropped from the squad to make way for the emerging Michael Petkovic.

Bolton had a very shaky role in the World Youth Cup in Qatar and his tenure in the Olyroos has been under question for some time.

The arrival of Petkovic will see Thomson breathe a sigh of relief, at last a reliable deputy for the brilliant Juric.

In defence Babic and Muscat will form the pivot upon which much of Australia's play will revolve.

Kevin Muscat could have made it six overseas based players in the squad but for his problems with Sheffield United.

Now back at South Melbourne, Muscat is almost certain to be heading overseas again as soon as the Olympics are over – and following him could be the likes of Mark Babic, Ante Moric, Goran Lozan-

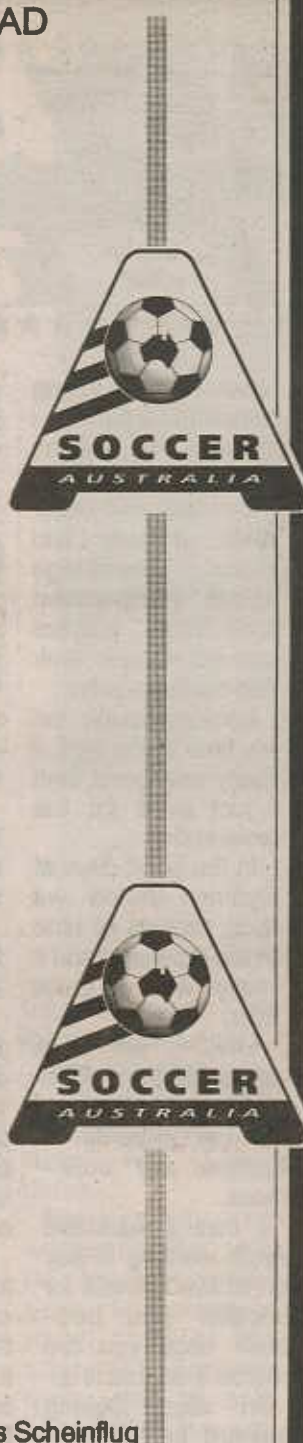
ovski, Joe Spiteri and Brad Hassell.

Tiatto already has his place in Holland booked and this could well be the last time that the Australian sporting public has the chance to see the majority of

AUSTRALIA'S OLYMPIC SQUAD

- 1 Frank JURIC (Melbourne Knights)
Born: 28.10.73 Goalkeeper
- 2 Goran LOZANOVSKI (Adelaide City)
Born: 11.1.74 Midfielder
- 3 Ante MORIC (Sydney United)
Born: 19.4.74 Midfielder
- 4 Mark BABIC (Sydney United)
Born: 24.4.73 Defender
- 5 Kevin MUSCAT (South Melbourne)
Born: 7.8.73 Defender
- 6 Hayden FOXE (Ajax Amsterdam)
Born: 23.6.77 Defender
- 7 Gabriel MENDEZ (Admira Wacker)
Born: 12.3.73 Midfielder
- 8 Peter TSEKENIS (UTS Olympic)
Born: 4.8.73 UTS Olympic
- 9 Mark VIDUKA (Croatia Zagreb)
Born: 9.10.75 Striker
- 10 Joe SPITERI (Melbourne Knights)
Born: 6.5.73 Striker
- 11 Danny TIATTO (Melbourne Knights)
Born: 22.5.73 Midfielder
- 12 Ross ALOISI (West Adelaide)
Born: 17.4.73 Midfielder
- 13 Norman TOME (UTS Olympic)
Born: 20.3.73 Striker
- 14 Tony CARBONE (Nottingham Forest)
Born: 13.10.74 Midfielder
- 15 Luke CASSERLY (Marconi-Fairfield)
Born: 11.12.73 Defender
- 16 Robbie ENES (Sydney United)
Born: 22.8.75 Midfielder
- 17 Bradley HASSELL (Adelaide City)
Born: 25.4.74 Striker
- 18 Michael PETKOVIC (South Melbourne)
Born: 16.7.76 Goalkeeper
- 19 Paul AGOSTINO (Bristol City)
Born: 9.6.75 Striker

COACH: Eddie Thomson ASSISTANT: Les Scheinflug



Aussie skipper in another press row

SOCCEROO SKIPPER Paul Wade is at the centre of ANOTHER controversy – just weeks after being on the receiving end of a club suspension after defying his coach's instructions and taking part in the Melbourne Grand Prix.

This time Wade has criticised the ability of the current Olyroo squad saying that they aren't as good as the team which went to Barcelona in 1992.

In a metropolitan newspaper Wade was quoted last week as saying: "I really don't think the group is as talented as Barcelona and I hope this will inspire them to prove me wrong."

The timing of Wade's remark, with the Aussies set to play a do or die clash over the next two weeks, is sure to be a concern for Soccer Australia officials who so far have made no public comment on the remarks.

Wade himself has come under increasing pressure from sections of the media and the public about his own role in an Australian jumper.

This remark may well put his remaining supporters offside – and hasten the end of his own international career.

Paul Wade has entered the record books as the most capped Australian soccer player of all time, surpassing Peter Wilson's long standing record – even although at one time in the last World Cup campaign it looked as if he wouldn't make it when coach Eddie Thomson dropped.

But with the Intercontinental Cup challenge against Tahiti, and a fresh World Cup campaign, both just around the corner the majority of the press are calling for a new appointment as Aussie skipper.

This season Wade enjoyed a new lease of life after his transfer to Canberra Cosmos but towards the end of the season his form dipped remarkably. Now, and with yet another controversy hanging around his neck, it may well be the final curtain in a long and illustrious international career.

Bruce Campbell



Barcelona 1992 and the team which lost that semi final game against Poland.

Pictured back row (left to right): Mark Bosnich, John Markovski, Dominic Longo, Shaun Murphy, Ned Zelic, Milan Blagojevic, Paul Okon. Front row; Damian Mori, George Sifkas, Tony Vidmar and Carl Veart.

Will history prove the current steam a better all-round side?

Robbie Slater

West Ham United
& Australia



WELL that's football for another couple of months now - at least as far as the league is concerned.

This season West Ham had its best one for many, many years.

Although some people thought we were involved in a relegation struggle we were safe for some months.

Finishing in tenth spot in the English Premier League was great for the club.

They really like their football at Upton Park and there have been some great legends of the game here in the past.

The Hammers fans are very intelligent lovers of football - and they'll let you know soon enough if your not giving them what they want.

At Upton Park it isn't just about winning, but winning with style and if we don't do that then we can cop a few jeers from the terraces.

Our fans are VERY passionate.

There are four Aussies now at Upton Park with the arrival of Stevie

Mautone from Canberra Cosmos.

Steve knows that he has been signed as a reserve keeper but he has every chance.

It's now up to him.

We've also got young Chris Coyne who is on apprentice terms as well as Stan Lazaridis.

It's good to have a few Aussies about the place and we gang up to give the rest of the lads a bit of stick about the cricket.

Stan is taking a rest back in Australia just now and maybe he had a 'lucky' break - that is, lucky as leg breaks go, that is.

His leg break was what the doctors call a clean one - no pins or anything like that.

Stan was in plaster for a few weeks but now he gets the chance to put his feet up for a bit and take it easy.

We need him back in the Upton Park Oz club so that we can give the Pommies heaps!

I'm looking forward to another year at West Ham United but it's funny because

when I was a young player at St George I thought that anyone over 28 was ancient.

But now with better diets, training and more knowledge about recuperation from injury, players can go on until their mid thirties easily.

Looking back on my time in the NSL it really was great, and I just lived for the weekends.

In the good days at Sydney United we drew crowds of nine to ten thousand and it really was a great time.

Life as a professional footballer is a lot different but the rewards in Europe are enormous.

I can understand Arnie wanting to say on at NAC Breda for another year because once you are retired then that is it.

I'm also looking forward to developments with the Intercontinental Cup.

If it is a serious championship then it will be great for Australian football.

Just now we are the only confederation which doesn't really

get into anything but this could change all of that.

Really, the Olympics don't count as far as football goes.

No-one in Europe cares about Olympic football so we need that extra tournament to give us a chance to show what we can do.

But having said that, it was a great experience to play in the Seoul Olympics.

There was great hype in the press in Australia.

Over the years I've been disappointed about the number of caps that I have won playing for my country but really that is all out of my control.

As a professional footballer I have to earn my living and at the end of the day that is what is really important to my family.

Frank Farina has done what we all want to do and he has done it at the right time.

He is far from finished and obviously still has a lot to offer football.



He came back to Australia when he

World Cup action against New Zealand

STAN LAZARIDIS: one of the West Ham United Australian colony - and a vital part of the cricket gang led by the Red Baron. Lazaridis suffered a broken leg last season but is sure to be back in big time action when the new season starts in August.



still had it and has gotten the rewards he deserves.

At this stage of my own career it isn't financially viable for me to think about coming back to Australia - but I do want to come back.

However, my wife

and kids come first for me but we'll see what happens later on.

In the meantime, I'm off to France for a couple of weeks in the sun - but I'll see you all in *Inside Soccer* next issue.

Robbie Slater

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EUROPEAN CUP
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HEART BREAK

The strong get stronger while the weak are just duffed up by the big guys – as United and Rangers have already proven

IF RANGERS victory over Hearts in last Saturday's Scottish Cup Final was predictable then, in reality, so too was that of Manchester United over Liverpool in the FA Cup just one week earlier.

Both clubs have established themselves as super powers and, if anything, they only look like getting stronger and stronger.

Rangers now have their sights set on Celtic's marvellous nine in a row record of Scottish League wins and only the bravest fan, or maybe most foolish, would be putting any money up against them doing just that.

They could afford to let bad boy Duncan Ferguson move to Everton without losing a flicker of their stride – and there are a lot of people in Scotland who would suggest that the 'Gers only signed him from Dundee United in the first place to stop Celtic getting him.

A move to Everton, and their money back in the bank, is really

**DIRECT FROM
FEATURES' WRITER**
Alex Cameron in Glasgow

getting your cake and eating it too.

Indeed, a similar situation to the sale and return of Trevor Steven to Marseille.

This season Manchester United have also looked particularly impressive.

So much so that they have finally eclipsed the Busby Babes and the other great United team of Best, Law and Charlton vintage.

With a double of doubles to go into the history books they are now the most successful Manchester United side of all time, of that there is no question – and that's official.

In Holland Ajax turned the First Division into a one horse race while AC Milan have taken out their fourth Serie A in five years.

Club Bruges dominated the Belgian League, even without the injured Aussie Paul Okon who is still

the subject of a big transfer rumour to an Italian club.

Only in France, of the major footballing nations, has a 'minnow' come up trumps.

Auxerre's championship victory is as much a surprise as it is an indictment of French football, still reeling from the Marseille bribes scandal which at one stage threatened its tenure as host of the World Cup.

In this economic climate of European Super Leagues and major TV rights it is hard to see any of the big clubs getting left behind.

It is equally hard to see any of the smaller ones making a realistic challenge.

The contestants for this year's European Cup final confirm that point.

Both Juventus and Ajax are giants of the European club game and the undoubted commercial success

of the European Champions Cup / League is seen by many involved in the game as further proof, if any is really needed, that the big guns need to spend more time in a Super Cup, not duffing up the small fry of their own domestic leagues.

Maybe at one time Scottish football was regarded with some sort of disdain south of the border but now the reality is that Rangers are viewed on BOTH sides of Hadrian's Wall as the biggest club not just in Scotland, but in Britain.

A Super League is the obvious answer but just how it would be, or even if it ever could be, achieved is another issue.

In the meantime, Rangers and United are unquestionably the Kings of Britain – with the prospect of a match up between the two the sort of stuff that promoter's dreams are made of.

For the rest it is just a case of broken hearts, particularly at Anfield and, maybe even more appropriately, Tynecastle.



Ryan Giggs; labelled the 'new George Best' and a real star in the star-studded Manchester United line-up

European Champion Clubs' Cup



AJAX got their hands on the European Cup last season. Will they make it number five?

AJAX Amsterdam, last year's winners of the European Cup, the most prestigious club tournament in

the world, will have a chance to take out the trophy for the fifth time in their history when they line up

against Juventus next week – and this time their fans will be hoping that they can do it with style.

Year	Champions	Runners Up	Venue
1956	Real Madrid 4	Rheims 3	Paris
1957	Real Madrid 2	Fiorentina 0	Madrid
1958	Real Madrid 3	AC Milan 2	Brussels
1959	Real Madrid 2	Rheims 0	Stuttgart
1960	Real Madrid 7	Eintracht Frankfurt 3	Glasgow
1961	Benfica 3	Barcelona 2	Berne
1962	Benfica 5	Real Madrid 3	Amsterdam
1963	AC Milan 2	Benfica 1	London
1964	Inter Milan 3	Real Madrid 1	Vienna
1965	Inter Milan 1	Benfica 0	Madrid
1966	Real Madrid 2	Partizan Belgrade 1	Brussels
1967	Glasgow Celtic 2	Inter Milan 1	Lisbon
1968	Manchester Utd 4	Benfica 1	London
1969	AC Milan 4	Ajax Amsterdam 1	Madrid
1970	Feyenoord 2	Glasgow Celtic 1	Milan
1971	Ajax Amsterdam 2	Panathinaikos 0	London
1972	Ajax Amsterdam 2	Inter Milan 0	Rotterdam
1973	Ajax Amsterdam 1	Juventus 0	Belgrade
1974	Bayern Munich 1	Atletico Madrid 1	Brussels
	Bayern Munich 4	Atletico Madrid 0	*replay
1975	Bayern Munich 2	Leeds United 0	Paris
1976	Bayern Munich 1	St Etienne 0	Glasgow
1977	Liverpool 3	Monchengladbach 1	Rome
1978	Liverpool 1	Brugge 0	London
1979	Nottingham Forest 1	Malmo 0	Munich
1980	Nottingham Forest 1	SV Hamburg 0	Madrid
1981	Liverpool 1	Real Madrid 0	Paris
1982	Aston Villa 1	Bayern Munich 0	Rotterdam
1983	SV Hamburg 1	Juventus 0	Athens
1984	Liverpool* 1	Roma 1	Rome
1985	Juventus 1	Liverpool 0	Brussels
1986	Steau Bucharest* 0	Barcelona 0	Seville
1987	Porto 2	Bayern Munich 1	Vienna
1988	PSV Eindhoven* 0	Benfica 0	Stuttgart
1989	AC Milan 4	Steau Bucharest 0	Barcelona
1990	AC Milan 1	Benfica 0	Vienna
1991	Red Star Belgrade* 0	Olympic Marseille 0	Bari
1992	Barcelona 1	Sampdoria 0	London
1993	Olympic Marseille 1	AC Milan 0	Munich
1994	AC Milan 4	Barcelona 0	Athens
1995	Ajax 1	AC Milan 0	Vienna

* won on penalties after extra time

Juventus's ROAD TO THE FINAL

GROUP C

Borussia Dortmund 1 Juventus 3
Scorers: Padovano, Del Piero, Conte

Juventus 3 Steau Bucharest 0
Scorers: Di Livio, Del Piero, Ravanelli

Juventus 4 Glasgow Rangers 1
Scorers: Ravanelli 2, Conte, Del Piero

Glasgow Rangers 0 Juventus 4
Scorers: Del Piero, Torricelli, Ravanelli, Marocchi

Juventus 1 Borussia Dortmund 2
Scorer: Del Piero

Steau Bucharest 0 Juventus 0

QUARTER FINAL

Real Madrid 1 Juventus 0

Juventus 2 Real Madrid 0
Scorers: Del Piero, Padovano

SEMI FINAL

Juventus 2 Nantes 0
Scorers: Vialli, Jugovic

Nantes 3 Juventus 2
Scorers: Vialli, Sousa

The 1995 final against Milan was one of those dour defensive affairs that big occasion games are beginning to attract notoriety for.

Then, one of the few bright moments of a particularly uninspiring game was when substitute Patrick Kluivert ran on to a defence splitting Frank Rijkaard pass to score the only goal in the 83rd minute.

That was it, that was the game.

And the 19 year old Kluivert is sure to be a big part of Ajax's bid once again.

Recently he stood trial for the manslaughter of an elderly man in a driving accident.

His avoidance of a jail term could well see Ajax pin a lot of their hopes on their Super Kid firebrand.

For Juventus, however, the European Cup represents their last chance for real glory this season.

Pipped by AC Milan for the *Serie A* title, Juventus are consigned to the relative obscurity of the UEFA Cup next season unless they can fashion a route to the Champions League via the winners' spot.

But first they must overcome Ajax who are clear favourites for the big one.

The way that Juventus absolutely

demolished Glasgow Rangers, both home and away, suggests that they might just do it.

With the ever increasing likelihood that striker Gianluca Vialli will stay at Juve next season, there might be more than one reason for a Zebras celebration – even if the odds are against them.

Alex Cameron

Ajax Amsterdam's ROAD TO THE FINAL

GROUP D

Ajax 1 Real Madrid 0
Scorer: Overmars

Ferencvaros 1 Ajax 5
Scorers: Litmanen 3, Kluivert, F de Boer

Ajax 3 Grasshoppers 0
Scorers: Kluivert 2, George

Grasshoppers 0 Ajax 0

Real Madrid 0 Ajax 2
Scorers: Litmanen, Kluivert

Ajax 4 Ferencvaros 0
Scorers: Overmars, F de Boer, Litmanen 2

QUARTER FINAL

Borussia Dortmund 0 Ajax 2
Scorers: David, Kluivert

Ajax 1 Borussia Dortmund 0
Scorer: Musampa

SEMI FINAL

Ajax 0 Panathinaikos 1

Panathinaikos 0 Ajax 3
Scorers: Litmanen 2, Wooter

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YOUTH soccer tournaments have exploded all over the world, all over the world, that is, except for Australia.

In the past they have been generally low key affairs with the one notable exception being the Kanga Cup, now held in Canberra.

But now, ISO brings you THE AUSTRALIA CUP - held in Bankstown, Sydney during the July school holidays and an event not to be missed by any junior soccer enthusiast.

Sydney is acknowledged as the finest deep water harbour in the world and because of that, and its many other fabulous tourist attractions, it is a mecca for holiday makers - from Australia and overseas.

That is the beauty of the AUSTRALIA CUP - a holiday in Sydney, and football too!

Fuller details on the event are available from the organisers who have been honoured with the endorsement of RALE RASIC who piloted Australia to their one and only World Cup finals in 1974.

"The format is exciting and is sure to be a winner with all the young boys and girls who play," says Rale.

"Our future is in youth football - which is why I spend so much of my own time in that very important area.

"I would recommend that any team manager or coach who is serious about his football contacts the organisers for more information."

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GERMANY AWAY JERSEY



SPAIN AWAY JERSEY



SWEDEN HOME JERSEY



TURKEY AWAY JERSEY



ROMANIA AWAY JERSEY



NORWAY AWAY JERSEY



TURKEY HOME JERSEY



GERMANY HOME JERSEY

A taffy in Beirut

JUST OVER a year ago Terry Yorath was offered the chance to take over the Lebanon team. He had been controversially sacked as manager of Wales and he probably had little idea of what his football career had in store for him.

"I came to Beirut to take a look at the city and the players last April," says Yorath.

"I could see there were players here with good technique, the federation was ready to help me in any way they could, and life in the city was not nearly as sinister as I had suspected.

"So I decided to go for it."

It is a decision which neither the 46 year-old Yorath nor the Lebanese Football Federation has regretted. And neither have the fans.

Under Yorath's guidance, the revitalised Lebanese team won all their first nine matches, including wins against Cyprus, Ecuador and Slovakia.

"I began to wonder if it might not be better to lose one, just to keep everyone's feet on the ground," commented the coach.

But Yorath, who had enjoyed a successful career playing for Leeds United, Coventry City and Wales, and had been in charge of the Welsh national team, for five years, knows he still has a lot of work to do.

"My predecessor was from Brazil and although he was only here for a short while it was enough to make the players here fall in love with the Brazilian style," he says. "They tend to over-elaborate on the ball at times and many of them are not strong enough physically to withstand the pressures of international competition.

"But if I can get them to make full use of their natural ability, they have tremendous potential.

"I only have one or two positions in the team to fill and I shall be happy with the squad."

Lebanese football is a melting pot, with players from various parts of Africa and Asia.

"There are several Palestinians who came here and are eligible for their new national team rather than for Lebanon," reports Yorath.

"But we have acquired some Armenian players who came here several years ago and have become Lebanese.

"And they are the ones with the most professional mentality.

The success of the multi-cultural mix in Lebanon and the harmony which prevails among them within the national team is particularly gratifying for the new coach.

The Ansar club is mainly Sunni Muslims, Nejmi players are Shiite Muslims and Hekmi is made up of Christian Maronites.

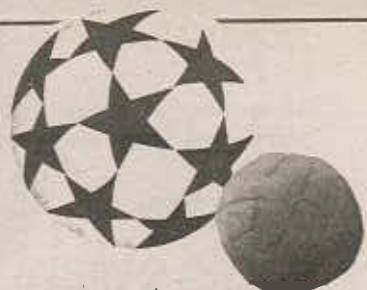
But when they all come together for training – and Yorath has the luxury of having his players together twice a week, and his Under 20 side virtually every day, – there is not the slightest sign of any lingering sectarian differences.

"Sometimes the fans or officials of one club or another put a little pressure on me to favour their players," admits Yorath, "but that's the same anywhere. The clubs give me tremendous co-operation and I have a free hand."

Having suffered tragedy with the death of his teenage son while playing football in 1992, Terry Yorath is courageously rebuilding his own life along with that of Lebanese football.

And so far, both are doing well.

Keith Cooper



CHAMPIONS LEAGUE



α STEVIE Chalmers (pictured above) scored one of Celtic's two goals in a 2-1 win over Inter Milan as the Glasgow side became the FIRST British side to ever win the European Cup.

α UEFA introduced the mini league system for the European Cup in 1993 – after talks of a breakaway European Super League had reached epidemic proportions.

α THE European Cup was the brain-child of French journalist Gabriel Hanot who was annoyed with claims of English clubs that they were the best. The Champions of England and Scotland refused to compete in that inaugural event but Hibernian, representing Scotland, reached the semi finals before losing out to Reims.

α THE GREAT Uruguayan Alfredo Di Stefano and Brazilian Gento, as well as Spaniard Zarraga, played in FIVE successive finals for Real Madrid – a record which will likely never be equalled.

α GENTO also played on the losing side in the 1962 and 1964 finals and another winning appearance in 1966 making a total appearance record of EIGHT finals.

α BRAZILIAN Jose Altafini holds the record for most goals scored in a single tournament with his 14 scored for AC Milan in 1963. That included his two goals in the Wembley final win over Benfica.

α LIVERPOOL holds the record for most wins by a British club with four wins. English clubs were barred after the riots at Heysel Stadium, Brussels during Liverpool's last final appearance – a 1-0 loss to Juventus in 1985.

α AN ALL TIME crowd record was set at the 1960 final when 127,621 fans crammed into Hampden Park for the match between Real Madrid and Eintracht Frankfurt.



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Waiting at the crossroads

RUMOURS from Marrickville of late suggest that UTS Olympic is planning a minor off-loading of its playing staff.

Augerinos, Gibson, Ironside and Slater seem likely to make way for the signing of Refenes, Patikas, Brett Hughes and, possibly, Craig Foster.

The next two weeks will also be a worrying time for star striker Kimon Taliadoros as he ponders his future at the club.

After the disappointment of last season at Marconi, Taliadoros looked forward to the challenge at Olympic

and certainly delivered the goods in the early rounds of the Ericsson Cup.

"I felt reinvigorated playing with an attacking outfit and those early goals boosted my confidence," says Taliadoros.

"The positive attitude and treatment of players by the Olympic management was also a big plus in helping me to forget the events of last year."

It was a season that promised so much for player and club alike and, if only Dino Menillo hadn't blocked that Taliadoros drive early in

the first half in the return leg of the play off at Leichhardt, Olympic may have gained the impetus to advance in the Top Six series.

However, it's goals that guarantee a striker regular employment and could Taliadoros believe that eight goals in twenty six appearances were sufficient in the eyes of coach David Ratcliffe.

"Although the campaign started well for me in the goal scoring department, as the season progressed I found myself playing in a deeper role behind

the strikers which naturally limited my goal scoring opportunities," says Taliadoros.

Taliadoros is adamant his future still lies with UTS Olympic and is confident he will be part of David Ratcliffe's plans for next season.

"At the moment I'm looking for a contract which offers me long term security and the necessary financial package."

"I don't want to leave Sydney because my family is settled here now, but when your main source of income is from football then you

have to make sure the contract is right."

The question now is whether UTS Olympic will agree terms with Taliadoros.

For anybody who witnessed the goal he scored against South Melbourne in round three of this season's Ericsson Cup, when he beat Michael Petkovic with a thunderbolt drive at the near post, there

would be no doubting his value in dollar terms.

Furthermore, it was quite surprising this goal was not considered for inclusion in the top five goals of the season.

However, with the appointment of Zoran Matic as the highest paid coach in the League at new guys Collingwood Warriors, it may well be that Taliadoros

should be looking at such a club to secure his financial needs.

Perth Glory is also rumoured to be offering favourable terms to high calibre players if the deal offered to Jimmy Patikas is anything to go by.

Meanwhile Kimon Taliadoros will have to wait patiently for the coming fortnight.

Roger Sleeman



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Cop Six THE LAST STAND



GRAND FINAL
Sunday 26th May
OLYMPIC PARK, MELBOURNE
Melbourne Knights
v
Marconi-Fairfield

MAJOR SEMI FINAL
FIRST LEG:
Melbourne Knights 1 Marconi 0
SECOND LEG:
Marconi 2 Melbourne Knights 2

PRELIMINARY FINAL
May 18,
Parramatta Stadium, Sydney
Marconi-Fairfield 4
Adelaide City 1

ELIMINATION SEMI FINAL
Wednesday May 15,
Hindmarsh Stadium
Adelaide City 1 Sydney United 0

PRELIMINARY SEMI FINAL
FIRST LEG:
Adelaide City 2 UTS Olympic 0
SECOND LEG:
UTS Olympic 0 Adelaide City 1

PRELIMINARY SEMI FINAL
FIRST LEG:
Sydney United 2 Brisbane Strikers 0
SECOND LEG:
Brisbane Strikers 1 Sydney United 2

The Final Showdown

IN FIVE meetings between the two sides so far this season Marconi have yet to register a victory.

In fact they didn't even score a solitary goal until the last game, that Top Six semi at Bossley Park.

Then Marconi came back to life in the second half with two goals – but only after falling behind to two early Knights goals.

If that game is any measuring stick then this match is all over before it even kicks

off.

In Sydney the Knights ripped Marconi apart in an easy 45 minutes of controlled football.

But most pundits believe that Marconi coach Manfred Schaefer blundered that day, making two major mistakes in a season which has been strewn with sound judgement and success.

The first was to leave Matt Bingley on the bench but the second, and one with greater consequences, was to go at the Knights from the

opening whistle.

That left the holes at the back which the young Knights exploited so well.

Last week Schaefer re-installed Bingley to the starting line up and this time his 'throw everything at them' tactics worked.

Two goals inside

the first five-minute snuffed out any real challenge from Adelaide City.

But Melbourne Knights are a different prospect.

A fine, well balanced team they also possess the capability of coming back from a one or even two goal deficit.

But the winning factor may well be which team can cope

with the loss of key players better.

Four Olyroos are absent in this Grand Final; Frank Juric, Danny Tiatto and Joe Spiteri for Melbourne Knights and Luke Casserly for Marconi.

Marconi seem to be better equipped to cover the solitary absentee while they also have Dominic Longo back after missing out that Top



MARCONI'S LIKELY LINE-UP

1 BOBBY CATLIN

The experienced keeper; been there, done that. Suspect to the occasional slip but had a season to remember. 8

4 ROBBIE STANTON

First season since transferring from Sydney United. Hard working defender still working to adapt to the Marconi style. 6.5

5 MATT BINGLEY

Play anywhere footballer with explosive pace. Likely to be used wide on the right as a wing back where his overlapping will cause problems for Knights. 8.5

22 DOMINIC LONGO

At'sweeper the rock of the defence. The perfect all round defender and the mainstay of the Stallions. 9

8 ERIC HRISTODOULOU

One of the most explosive shots in the country. Former Olyroo in first season at Marconi. Needs to get involved and suspect to drifting out of games at times. 6.5

10 BRAD MALONEY

His two goals against Adelaide City set up this show down. Hard running midfielder who links the team well. 8

18 PAUL SOURIS

Fitted in well to the Marconi defence this season. First Grand Final but plays well under pressure. 7

23 VLADO ZORIC

A player of immense talent but still an under-achiever. This may be his stage – and if he fires in midfield then Marconi will do well. 7

19 BRENDAN RENAUD

Another utility who is likely to fill the position of Mike Smith. Has a nose for goal and has had a memorable season. 7.5

7 ANDY HARPER

Lost weight and picked up fitness in an attempt to shake off last season's nightmare. It's worked – Harps is tops and his aggressive running at defences may yet prove vital. 8.5

17 FRANCIS AWARITEFE

Enigmatic striker who has pace and skill to burn. The flamboyant player in the side and his experience at this level could be the telling factor. 8.5

COACH: MANFRED SCHAEFER

Former 50 cap Soccerroo, been to the World Cup finals, played in countless Grand Finals, tough talking disciplinarian. Had an immense season at Bossley Park proving himself beyond any question. 9.5

TEAM TOTAL: 94.5

Matt Green

KNIGHT'S PROBABLE LINE UP

20 VILSON KNEZEVIC

The replacement for Olyroo Frank Juric. Had limited chances but looks good enough – if Grand Final nerves don't affect him. 6.5

3 FAUSTO DE AMICIS

Formerly at Brunswick Juventus and one of the most under-rated players in the league. No-nonsense defender with plenty of experience. 8.5

4 DAVID CERVINSKI

Been around for ages – despite his youth. Blends in well with defence and provides extra options. 7.5

5 ZORAN MARKOVSKI

Former Morwell player who may prove the weak link in the Knights back line. Has ability but tends to lapse in concentration. 6.5

8 JOSIP SIMUNIC

In his rookie year and already proving that he has the class top be a top sweeper. Former AIS player. 7.5

10 LUBO LAPANSKY

Midfielder with an explosive shot. Is one of the real finds for the Knights and he has had a great season. 8

2 VINKO BULJUBASIC

Rated unlucky to miss out on an Olyroo place and if he is on form is sure to be a big part in a possible Knights victory. 7.5

16 ANTE KOVACEVIC

Not a headline grabber, but a steady hard working type of player who puts in 90 minutes. 7

17 JOHN MARKOVSKI

Struggled with fitness since transferring from Morwell but on his day there is none better. The likelihood is that he won't last the 90 minutes. 8

18 ADRIAN CERVINSKI

Put out on loan to Wollongong last season but has now come back with a bang. Explosive turn of pace and a proven goalscorer at this level. 8

24 TOM PONDELJAK

The Rookie of the Year and a superb prospect. Can score from anywhere and will prove a major headache to the Marconi defence – like he did at Bossley Park. 8

COACH: IAN DOBSON

Took over from Mirko Bazic and has since transformed a struggling team into one brim full of confidence. 8

TEAM TOTAL: 90.5

John White



TOP: Dominic Longo – brilliance in a Marconi shirt

BOTTOM: Vilson Knezevic – in for the Olyroo Frank Juric.



Six disaster through injury.

The winner?

Who knows, only a fool predicts out-

comes for big games. What the hell, Marconi by one ...

Bruce Campbell

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Merry go round still spinning \$\$

ADELAIDE CITY

Incumbent: John Perin
Appointed: 1995
Merry go round: no change

BRISBANE STRIKERS

Incumbent: Bruce Stowell
Appointed: 1994
Merry go round: all change. Position advertised, Stowell likely to apply.
Favourite: Frank Farina
Other Possibles: Gary McDowall, Greg Brown

CANBERRA COSMOS

Incumbent: Mike Lyons
Appointed: 1995
Merry go round: no change.

MARCONI FAIRFIELD

Incumbent: Manfred Schaefer
Appointed: 1995
Merry go round: no change.

MELBOURNE KNIGHTS

Incumbent: Ian Dobson
Appointed: 1996
Merry go round: already changed when Mirko Bazic went back to Croatia. Dobson looks safe after taking the Knights to a Grand Final spot.

MORWELL FALCONS

Incumbent: Harry Bingham
Appointed: 1995
Merry go round: maybe a change. Position advertised, although Bingham has some support on the board.
Favourite: Frank Arok
Other Possibles: Harry Bingham, Eddie Krncevic, John Waddell.

NEWCASTLE BREAKERS

Incumbent: John Kosmina
Appointed: 1995
Merry go round: no change.

SOUTH MELBOURNE

Incumbent: Angie Postecoglou (caretaker)
Appointed: 1996
Merry go round: all change. Frank Arok forced out and position open for some weeks after Postecoglou appointed caretaker.
Favourite: Angie Postecoglou & Steve Blair in a dual role.
Other Possibles: Eddie Krncevic.

THE appointment of Zoran Matic to the vacancy at Ericsson Cup new guys Collingwood Warriors has surely set the game in this country on the inevitable road to professionalism.

Matic is said to be on a whopping \$140,000 per annum - a staggering figure which is well above the remuneration of any coach in the country. In fact it is comparable with that of national boss Eddie Thomson, although the Scot would be ahead when travel expenses and incidentals are taken into account.

But it does place him above Raul Blanco and Les Scheinflug - both full time ASF staff coaches.

It is rumoured that Matic didn't land the South Melbourne job because of the value he places on his services - with the Bob Jane club baulking at such an investment.

However, Collingwood, which also had Ferenc Puskas in its sights, has set a new standard in the Australian game - without even kicking a ball.

Now the players will also be keen to get amongst the spoils and insiders are confident that the majority of the clubs will be fully professional within the next two seasons.

History may recall the dour, but brilliant, Zoran Matic as the catalyst of that certain outcome.

The Collingwood appointment has also opened up possibilities at other clubs.

Eddie Krncevic is believed to have actually agreed terms with Collingwood so the Matic appointment, although tipped in some quarters, came as something of a mini bombshell in the close ranks of soccer coaches.

It also sets the merry go round spinning with Krncevic's name now being freely linked to the vacancy at South Melbourne and also the advertised position at Morwell.

At the Gippsland club Harry Bingham is very confident of being re-appointed with the advertised position being seen just as a club formality.

The same cannot be said at Brisbane where Bruce Stowell's alleged unpopularity with a group of players looks like having finally won, or lost, the day.

AND WHO IS IN THE MONEY*

\$140,000	Zoran Matic (Collingwood)
\$90,000	Mike Lyons (Canberra)
\$75,000	Manfred Schaefer (M'con)
\$55,000	John Perin (Adelaide City)
\$55,000	Dave Ratcliffe (Olympic)
\$50,000	Branko Culina (Syd United)
\$45,000	Ian Dobson (Knights)
\$45,000	John Kosmina (Newcastle)
\$30,000	Harry Bingham (Morwell)
\$30,000	Nick Theos (Wollongong)

* Figures are based on total packages which include salary and other incidental and living expenses. These figures are NOT official. Clubs do not make salaries public, but they are believed to be approximately correct with the information available. *Inside Soccer* will gladly correct any figures should the clubs wish to make more accurate information available.

Maybe economics also played a part and with Frank Farina reportedly on a massive (by Australian soccer standards) \$150,000 a year the Strikers may link up his job

with that of coach. That would be a popular move in the Queensland capital and would secure Farina's long term future at the club.

John White



Bruce Stowell: last shout at Brisbane?

THE OPINIONS expressed in this article do not necessarily reflect those of the Publisher or Editor.

Kiwi Magic



"The atmosphere, the fans, the professionalism – really this club has it all."

major trophy of the season to an impressive list of former honours.

He's also managed to pick up coaching work with Snickers which enables him to be the nearest thing to a full time player that exists in Australia just now.

"I love working with the kids," he says.

"When Paul Wade moved to Canberra I got the job as Snickers youth development coach and I am delighted.

"It's definitely an area I would like to move into when I finish playing because there is only so long in playing the game."

But in the meantime the stylish Kiwi is concentrating on playing the game, and with a vengeance.

His form this season was also closely linked to the great run by South Melbourne which saw them just dip out on a finals place.

But he doesn't see any great surprises in

that.

"You can only be as good as the players around you," he says, "and at South Melbourne we have got a lot of very good players."

"At Wollongong it was hard because there wasn't much depth of talent in the squad but we have a really great squad here."

"All we have to work on now is producing form consistently."

Everything in Vaughan's garden was really looking rosy until he suffered that bad injury towards the end of the season, and with him out South's finals chances weren't far behind either.

Now fit again, and with a new season just three months away Coveny will be doing his best to produce his own brand of Kiwi magic with plenty of thrills and spills in store for the Blue & White Army.

Bruce Campbell



WHEN Kiwi star Vaughan Coveny first came to Australia he didn't know the first thing about the local national league game – and he is the first to admit it.

"I hadn't a clue," he confesses, "but I'd been told a bit by my New Zealand team mates Clint Gosling and Robbie Ironside and so decided to give it a try."

"I wrote away to a few clubs and I got picked up by Melbourne Knights."

"Then last season I had a spell with Wollongong Wolves."

"But since then I've learnt that South

Melbourne is the Liverpool of Australia – it's just a great club to play with."

"The atmosphere, the fans, the professionalism – really this club has it all."

The classy midfielder has settled in extremely well at Bob Jane Stadium and his direct running style has made him a firm favourite with the fans, the legendary Blue & White Army which was rated at a goal start by former coach Frank Arok.

And a bag full of goals during the Johnnie Walker Cup helped the Lakeside club to add its second

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Switzerland	50-1	9-1
Holland	57-10	10-11
Scotland	66-1	12-1
GROUP B	win	win group
Spain	7-1	16-10
Bulgaria	25-1	45-10
Romania	20-1	45-10
France	9-1	17-10
GROUP C	win	win group
Germany	45-10	12-10
Czechoslovakia	50-1	16-1
Italy	48-10	11-10
Russia	16-1	45-10
GROUP D	win	win group
Denmark	33-1	35-10
Portugal	10-1	14-10
Turkey	80-1	16-1
Croatia	10-1	14-10

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ERICSSON CUP GRAND FINAL

	to win outright
Melbourne Knts	8-11
Marconi	Evens
	result over 90 mins.
Melbourne Knts	11-10
Marconi	9-4
Draw	2-1

EUROPEAN CUP FINAL

	to win outright
Ajax	8-11
Juventus	Evens

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Sunday 19 May

USA AUSTRALIA

DELAIDE CITY 1 SYDNEY UNITED 0
Armour
Att: 6,250 (unofficial crowd)
Ref:

Sunday 12th May
UTS OLYMPIC 0 ADELAIDE CITY 1
Mennillo 70

Att: 9,015 (unofficial crowd)
Ref: E Brazzale

Saturday 11th May
BRISBANE STRIKERS 1 SYDNEY UNITED 2
Farina 44
Att: 8,727
Ref: B Hugo
Lamond 83
Moric 87

MARCONI FAIRFIELD 2 MELB KNIGHTS 2
Hristodoulou 50
Maloney 62
Att: 8,317
Ref: E Lennie
T Pondeljak 22
D Cervinski 35

Sunday 5th May
MELB KNIGHTS 1 MARCONI-FAIRFIELD .. 0
A Cervinski 61
Att: 4,644

ERICSSON CUP

TOP SIX

Sunday 19th May

MARCONI-FAIRFIELD 4 ADELAIDE CITY 1

played at Parramatta Stadium

Wednesday 15th May



Milan Ivanovic: even the man they call Merlin the Magician didn't have enough tricks to get Adelaide City into another Grand Final.

ERICSSON CUP TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Marconi Fairfield	33	17	9	7	58	35	60
Melbourne Knights	33	17	8	8	50	28	59
UTS Olympic	33	17	8	8	55	41	59
Brisbane Strikers	33	17	6	10	54	35	57
Adelaide City	33	15	9	9	65	40	54
Sydney United	33	14	12	7	47	33	54
West Adelaide	33	16	5	12	49	43	53
South Melbourne	33	14	4	15	50	56	46
Canberra Cosmos	33	8	11	14	48	61	35
Morwell Falcons	33	9	8	16	35	65	35
Wollongong City	33	5	5	23	31	63	20
Newcastle Breakers	33	4	5	24	35	77	17

* 3 points for a win, 1 point for a draw

NATIONAL YOUTH LEAGUE - NORTH

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Marconi Fairfield	33	24	2	7	98	22	74
AIS	33	23	2	8	110	43	71
UTS Olympic	33	19	6	8	76	38	63
Sydney United	32	20	2	10	68	45	62
ACT Academy	33	19	4	10	74	58	61
Qld Academy	31	16	3	12	83	47	51
Wollongong City	32	15	4	13	75	68	49
Newcastle Breakers	33	13	3	17	54	62	42
Parramatta Eagles	33	10	8	15	51	77	38
Blacktown City	30	6	6	18	42	105	24
St George	31	3	2	26	26	104	11
NSW ITC	32	3	2	7	29	117	11

* 3 points for a win, 1 point for a draw

NORTHERN COLTS LEAGUE

	P	W	SD	D	L	F	A	Pts
MacArthur Rams	24	17	3	0	4	59	23	57
Parramatta Eagles	22	13	4	0	5	41	32	47
Illawarra	22	12	4	1	5	477	23	45
UTS Olympic	22	13	2	1	6	31	16	44
Bankstown City	24	9	6	1	8	56	42	40
Warringah	23	8	7	1	7	34	24	39
Sydney United	24	8	7	0	9	40	34	38
Central Coast	23	9	5	0	9	47	57	37
Bonnyrigg	23	10	2	1	10	35	39	35
Rockdale City	23	11	1	0	11	42	48	35
Sutherland	23	9	2	0	12	46	41	31
Leichhardt	24	6	4	0	14	27	57	26
Canterbury	23	6	2	0	15	26	59	22
Leichhardt	22	5	3	0	14	24	55	21
Adamstown	22	2	1	1	18	22	58	9

Ref: S Micallef

SYDNEY UNITED 2 BRISBANE STRIKERS .. 0
Zdrilic 14
Moric 59
Att: 2,848
Ref: E Brazzale

ADELAIDE CITY 2 UTS OLYMPIC 0
Hassell 6, 48
Att: 6,938
Ref: B Hugo

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ROUND 24
UTS OLYMPIC P CENTRAL COAST P
WARRINGAH P ADAMSTOWN P
LEICHHARDT 2 ILLAWARRA LIONS 1
SUTHERLAND 2 BANKSTOWN CITY 2
ROCKDALE CITY 2 SYDNEY UNITED 1

Statistics supplied by
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Scores & Tables

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